

*Ford Motor Company*

RECEIVED

00 DEC 12 AM 11:04

OFFICE  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

L. W. Camp, Director  
Automotive Safety Office  
Environmental and Safety Engineering

December 1, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

00V-356(01)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This letter provides information regarding a field action that Ford is voluntarily initiating with regard to certain 1998 through 2001 model year Lincoln Town Cars that have been converted by Final Stage Manufacturers to Limousines.

These Town Car vehicles, as manufactured by Ford Motor Company, were fully compliant with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and Regulations. However, on some modified units, depending on the extent of the Final Stage Manufacturer's modifications, the front axle weight could be such that the "normal load" on the vehicle's P225/70R16 Michelin 101S Symmetry tire may exceed 88 percent of the tire maximum load rating. These modified vehicles, therefore, may not fully comply with FMVSS 110 S4.2.2 requirements which specify that the vehicle normal load on a tire shall not be greater than the test load used for that tire in the high speed performance test specified in S5.5 of CFR 571.109 (88 percent of the tire's maximum load rating as marked on the tire sidewall).

Because Ford is not the final stage manufacturer of these modified vehicles and therefore not responsible for their final certification, we have notified the affected modifiers (listed below) of this possible condition, and advised that it may be necessary for them to provide a Part 573 notification to the agency.

Accubuilt (S&S Superior of Ohio)  
American Custom Coaches  
Classic Limousine  
DeBryan Coach Builders  
DeVinci Coachworks  
Destiny, Inc. LTD  
Eagle Coach  
Executive Coach Builders  
Federal Coach  
AHA Automotive Design

Image Coaches  
International Armor & Limousine  
Krystal Coach  
LCW, Inc.  
Picasso Coach Builder  
Tiffany Coachworks  
Royale Limousine Manufacturers  
Springfield Coach Builders  
United States Coachworks  
Viking Coachworks



00K-356 (02)  
December 1, 2000

These modifiers have indicated that a total of approximately 10,000 vehicles (Town Cars converted to limousines) are affected. The original Town Car vehicles were built at Ford's Wixom Assembly Plant from September 19, 1997 through September 26, 2000.

For expediency, Ford has agreed to administer the field action to remedy this condition. Owners of record of the affected vehicles will be notified by Ford of the condition during the week of January 8, 2001, and advised to contact their dealers to make arrangements for the servicing of their vehicles. The service will involve replacement of their vehicle's tires with Michelin tires with a sufficiently higher load rating. This action will be at no cost to the customers.

Copies of Notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford Customer Service Division will be forwarded to the agency when available. For Ford's administration and reporting purposes, campaign number 00S51 has been assigned to this action.

Sincerely,

  
L. W. Camp

00S51